

In re: Gregory Blair Lamb
Serial No. 10/062,954
Filed: January 31, 2002
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Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-8 (Withdrawn).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) A method of treating a disorder associated with spinal compression comprising administering an effective dose of botulinum toxin a ~~paralyzing agent~~ to the intrinsic muscles of a patient in need of such therapy.

Claims 10-20 (Withdrawn).

Claim 21 (Previously Added) A method according to claim 9, wherein said disorder associated with spinal compression is selected from the group consisting of compression neuropathies, facet joint disease of the spine, sciatica, disc herniation and degenerated discs.

Claim 22 (Previously Added) A method according to claim 21, wherein the disorder is disc herniation or degenerated discs.

Claim 23 (Cancelled).

Claim 24 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~23~~ 9, wherein said botulinum toxin paralyzing agent is botulinum toxin A.

Claim 25 (Previously Added) A method according to claim 23, wherein said toxin is administered in a dose between 1 and 30 mouse units of toxin per injection site.

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Claim 26 (Previously Added) A method according to claim 23, wherein said toxin is administered in a single injection.

Claim 27 (Previously Added) A method according to claim 23, wherein said toxin is administered via a plurality of injections.

Claim 28 (Previously Added) A method according to claim 22, further comprising the administration of a factor selected to enhance healing of the disc.

Claim 29 (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein the factor is selected from the group consisting of human growth factor (HGF), nerve growth factor (NGF), epidermal growth factor (EGF), transforming growth factor (TGF), platelet derived growth factor (PDGF), insulin-like growth factor (IGF), fibroblast growth factor (FGF) and bone morphogenic protein (BMF).

Claim 30 (New) A method of treating spinal compression comprising penetrating the skin with an acupuncture needle, advancing the acupuncture needle between two vertebrae to provide a mechanical release of the spinal muscles, introducing an injection syringe containing botulinum toxin and injecting the toxin into the intrinsic muscles.

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